Approved For Release 1999/09/08 : CIA-RDP82-00457R001000470005-8

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INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)/Russia

DATE: 25X

INFO.

97.97

SUBJECT

ORIGIN

The Free Germany Committee (Freies Deutschland)

DIST. 368 October 1947

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REFERENCE COPY

SUPPLEMENT

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- 1. The famous "Freies Deutschland Komitee" of Field Laffeld von Paulus, created in Russia for German PW's, is still operating in Russia, despite the fact that in October 1945 it was proclaimed dissolved on the insistence of Churchill and Roosevelt at Yalta. Three thousand German officers are reported to be serving in the Russian Army (especially in the army corps of the Far East) and ninety thousand other German officers and NCO's are taking training courses with a view to assuming important administrative positions in Germany upon termination of the occupation.
- 2. The key man of the organization is Count won Einsiedel, twenty-sixth great grandchild of Prince Otto von Bismarck. Shot down while piloting a plane of the Udet unit over Stalingrad, Einsiedel became the favorite of his former Russian enemies. It is reported that he is now president of the "Committee for the Rebirth of Germany" which has succeeded the "Freies Deutschland Komitee" in Germany. The Russians hold Einsiedel in great esteen because he supports Bismarck's theory that Russia and Germany are destined to divide world power between them.

Count von Einstedel stated in a speech to his German colleagues that "the mood for cooperation between Germany and Russia is born of a historical necessity, and Bismarck's policy was the outgrowth of particular circumstances. Bismarck foresaw the internal conflict among the Western Powers, and in his apinion the existence of the Reich could only be guaranteed by a cooperation with Russia." The address was made in German, but Count von Einsiedel speaks perfect Russian in accordance with a Bismarck family tradition.

Einsiedel's organization is composed of a strange agglomeration of Junker generals, German Communists, intellectuals, and even former SS officers. It will provide courses for the committee's members on the following subjects: the Russian language, political science, the history of Russo-German relations, and the theory of modern warfare with particular emphasis on the relationship between industrial production and military necessities.

Marshal von Paulus is reported to be still active on the committee. This is also true of General Walter von Seydlitz, the former commander of the 51st German Army Infantry Corps. Paulus is now vice-president and Seydlitz, although he has no official position, continues, behind the scenes, to be the brains of the organization.

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- 6. The three thousand German officers who are now attached to the Far Hastern Russian Army were chosen individually by von Paulus. They are studying at present the organization of the Russian Army, its training methods, and its manner of supervision. All have received the assurance that the training they are receiving is intended to qualify them for the tasks to which they will be assigned in Germany, and that they will be incorporated into Russian officer cadres.
- 7. The Russian plan obviously envisages the covering of post-occupation Germany with a closely-knit web of chosen administrators who will receive their orders directly from the Russian-controlled Einsiedel-Paulus-Seydlitz Committee.
- 8. In view of the fact that the "Freies Deutschland Komitee" does not limit itself to studies of a purely academic and educational nature, Bevin's question, which he addressed to Molotov on the second day of the Moscow Conference, acquires added significance. The Pritish Foreign Minister asked if it were true that German PW's are being "inducted" into the Russian Armed Forces.
- 9. It is also reported that members of "Freies Deutschland" are given key positions as consultants in the Soviet Army. Reliable sources have revealed that "approximately eighty former Nazi generals are members of the training corps of ex-Mazis in the Stalin Forces". According to very reliable sources, other officers and NCO's may be added to this number, bringing the total to approximately ninety thousand.
- 10. Several promiment members of "Freies beutschland" have already assumed important posts in the German civil administration in Berlin and in other parts of the Russian Zone. The most important among these individuals is Colonel Paul Markgraf, former commander of the 40th Nazi Panzer Division and recipient of the Iron Cross during the battle of Stalingrad. Harkgraf was appointed Chief of Police several weeks after the fall of Berlin. He still holds this post.
- 11. Lt. Colonel Luitpold Stilde, former commander of the 767th Nountain Regiment, is now Departmental Chief of the Central Administration for Agriculture in the Russian Zone. He was one of the most prominent radio broadcasters for "Preies Deutschland".
- lajor Bernhard Bechler, former commander of the 29th Notorized Division, who also received the Iron Cross, is at present Minister of Interior in the Brandenburg Cabinet. Another member of the committee, Captain Beil Frost, in major of Stralsund in the Russian Zone. He was one of the youngest pilots on the Luftwaffe, actively engaging in more than twenty rails over Great Britain.
- 13. Dr. Ernst Hadermann, former commander of the 3rd Artillery Regiment, and one of the first members of the original committee, is president of the Central Administration for Education in the Russian Zone.
- 14. Other military personalities and former Nazis who are now occupying high positions in Germany are Major Seitz, major of Schwerin, Major Kahle, recently deceased chief of the Mecklenburg police, and Lt. Colonel Simon, Director of Administration in the Mecklenburg cabinet.
- 15. It is interesting to note in this connection that Wilhelm Fieck, head of the German Communist Party and reportedly a Russian citizen, has been given the commission of colonel in the Soviet Army in order to maint an political surveillance over the German officers who will assume key positions in Germany.

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